2016 CREATIVE ARTS STUDENT CONTEST

MOTHERS AND FATHERS: STORIES OF LOVE AND LOSS

Middle School – Honorable Mention
"Stripped" by Cole Cooper

Dalton Middle School

2016 CREATIVE ARTS STUDENT CONTEST "STRIPPED" BY COLE COOPER

First they stripped me of my nation.

I peered out of my window

Watching as the Swastikas began to sway

Amongst the gentle, polish breezes,

I was unsure of the events to come.

Then they stripped me of my freedom. I longed for the past
While watching the patch be sewn
Into the fabric of my clothing.
Standing in the shadow of my mother,
I was unsure of the events to come.

Then they stripped me of my home.

I lightly sobbed into my father's arm
Watching as our house began to bleed away
Along with the memories of my past.
Sitting in the back of this truck,
I was unsure of the events to come.

Then they stripped me of my independence.

I whispered a plea of sadness under my breath

Wondering why they forced more people into our new home

Within this blackened and unholy pit

Fittingly named a "ghetto"

Standing amongst my remaining belongings,

I was unsure of the events to come.

Then they stripped me of humanity. I winced from a sharp pain While being shoved into a cattle car Disoriented by the darkness and stench. Sobbing in a curled position, I was unsure of the events to come.

Then they stripped me of family. I shouted as loud as possible Clinging to my father As they stripped him away from me. Flung into the drying mud, I was unsure of the events to come.

Then they stripped me of my mother. I tried to scream but my soul was gone.

GEORGIA COMMISSION ON THE HOLOCAUST

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She watched as they drug my withering body away.

I felt as if my existence would eternally stayed within her.

Watching as the iron door to the dimly lit chamber was pulled to,
I was unsure of the events to come.

More withering bodies surrounded me. The showers began above me. The screams echoed around me. I was sure of the events to come.

They had come.